

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated December 15, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant hereinabove amends claim 1 to describe features of the invention more particularly. Applicant submits that the substance of the modifications does not raise new issues since similar subject matter regarding plural color formation and their start positions was previously pending, as in claims 9 and 13, for example.

Claims 1-13 remain pending the application. Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated Kakutani (U.S.P. 6,356,358). Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakutani et al. (U.S.P. 6,356,358) in view of Mackin et al. (U.S.P. 5,262,937). Applicant respectfully submits the following arguments in traversal of the prior art rejections.

The Examiner maintains the rationale for rejecting the claims and offers a few points in rebuttal to prior submitted arguments. Applicant responds as follows.

Claim 1 describes a recording step including offsetting, upstream or downstream, in a sub-scanning direction the start position for recording one of plural colors in the sub-scanning direction, so that the total number of spots in the sub-scanning direction subtracts one spot.

The Examiner relies on Col. 11, lines 35-63, Figs. 7A, 8A and Figs. 5A-5B to teach offsets of multiple colors. The Examiner notes in the Fig. 5(A), the distance "k" is shown as

separating nozzles within a print head, which each different color in its respective print head **starts on a same sub-scanning line** in the main scanning direction.” Applicant submits that the emphasized portion of the Examiner’s response clearly indicates the error in the Examiner’s rejection. Each different color starts on the same sub-scanning line. Accordingly, there can be no offset in the upstream or downstream direction in a subscanning direction of one of multiple colors, as described by claim 1.

Moreover, the Examiner’s reliance on Fig. 5A and supporting text do not indicate the offset in color in a subscan direction as claimed. To the extent Fig. 5A illustrates multiple colors, there is no indication of any offset in a subscanning direction for a start position for recording. It is further noted that Figs. 7A and 8A, for example, relate to nozzle printing in connection with nozzles of a single head. This clear from the sub-scan designation in these Figures and the sub-scan designation of Fig. 5A. The colors may change from the arrays 61-64 in the main scan direction. However, in the subscan direction, the colors are all consistently one color.

Relatedly, even if one were to view the “main scan” direction of Kakutani as the subscan direction, in this direction, there is no offset in start position scanning of multiple colors. This is clear from the multiple nozzle pattern (e.g. 2222, 1111, 0000) shown in Fig. 7A. Similarly, Fig. 8A shows a pattern for nozzles of a single head, where there is perfect alignment of a start position even with the alternating circle, diamond nozzle pattern.

For all the above reasons, the Examiner’s rejection of claim 1 is improper. Claim 2 is patentable for analogous though not necessarily coextensive reasons. The remaining claims are

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 09/704,724

Attorney Docket No.: Q61576

patentable based on their dependency. The secondary reference of Mackin does not make up for these deficiencies.

Further, claims 9 and 13 specify more particularly the plural colors and start positions thereof, which are not taught by the cited art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

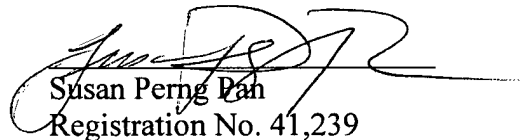
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Susan Perng Pan
Registration No. 41,239

Date: March 15, 2006